



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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21 MARCH 1966

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DAILY BRIEF
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1. South Vietnam

The Buddhist hierarchy has told its people to stay calm in the wake of Ky's blast which characterized Buddhist aspirations as "irrational, treasonable, and harmful."

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Tri Quang himself has left Saigon for Hue in order to help organize an opposition movement.

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The calm in I Corps was broken today by an antigovernment parade in Da Nang; there are also rumblings that more protest activity there is coming.

2. North Vietnam

Hanoi's propaganda has been giving the "US war crimes" theme unusually heavy play recently. Now Hanoi says that the Liberation Front has set up a special committee "to investigate evidence" and provide the public with "documentary" proof of all types of criminal American activity.

This kind of talk suggests that the Vietnamese Communists have a major effort in mind. It might well resemble the "germ warfare" campaign of the Korean war with its elaborately documented charges and world-wide publicity.

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3. Indonesia

Ambassador Green notes that disillusionment with Sukarno has become more widespread in Indonesia than seemed conceivable some months ago. He believes that the process of dismantling the structure and policies Sukarno imposed on the country may well move fairly rapidly.

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Ambassador Green says that contrary to previous indications the US may soon receive a formal request for emergency economic assistance.

4. Cambodia

In Cambodia the Soviets are making a clear bid to regain the influential position they lost last year when they abruptly cancelled Sihanouk's planned visit. Last Friday a protocol was initialed under which Moscow will give Cambodia over \$2 million worth of military equipment. The Soviets thus appear in this sphere also to be vying with the Chinese, who have recently made new military deliveries to Cambodia.

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5. Soviet Union

Satellite photography of 9-14 March shows a launch vehicle in ready position on a pad at Tyuratam. It is a big one and is probably the Proton satellite booster, the largest the Soviets have yet sent up. The Proton has a role in the Soviets' manned space program, but so far has only been launched twice and will require further launchings before use in a manned flight.

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6. Soviet Union

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7. Soviet Union

For the first time since the Soviet photoreconnaissance program began, two vehicles are in orbit at the same time. One.

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The other, was orbited last Thursday from the Plesetsk site, nearly 1,500 miles northwest of Tyuratam.

The use of the two launch sites demonstrates the growing flexibility of the Soviet program. So far this year, the Soviets have launched six reconnaissance satellites. This also represents an increased pace in the program over past years.

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8. Colombia

Returns from yesterday's congressional election are coming in slowly, but they do confirm predictions of a close race. The governing National Front coalition is likely to fall well short of the two thirds required for effective control of the congress. The president to be elected on 1 May will thus probably have to rule by decree as President Valencia has had to for most of the past year.

As expected, the rabble-rousing, ex-dictator Rojas Pinilla made big gains for his following of radical rightists. His group now seems assured of becoming the strongest force in the opposition. This would increase pressures for military intervention to head off governmental paralysis.

9. Rhodesia

Four months have passed since the illegal declaration of independence, and in many ways Rhodesia seems almost untouched by the economic sanctions. Moreover, the US consul in Salisbury has detected an increasing determination among the whites to fight should Britain opt for military intervention.

In Zambia, President Kaunda now fears it will be another year before sanctions bring down Smith. He feels this would be intolerable for his country. He is already having considerable trouble keeping the lid on in the copper-belt where racial tensions are becoming increasingly explosive.

10. Egypt

Nasir told Ambassador Battle yesterday that his concern over Egyptian Army morale precludes an unconditional withdrawal from Yemen. He is still anxious to settle the impasse, but doubts that any new talks would be fruitful.

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